

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (once amended) [A]The method according to claim 1 wherein said vector is selected from peptides, proteins, antibodies, nucleotides, hormones, growth factors, cytokines, carbohydrates, lipids, therapeutic agents and drugs acting through receptor-mediated cell entry.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (once amended) [A]The method according to claim 1[or claim 2] wherein the encapsulated microbubbles of step iii) are selected from microbubbles of gas stabilised by a coalescence-resistant surface membrane, a filmogenic protein, a polymer material, a lipid, a non-polymeric and non-polymerisable wall-forming material and a surfactant.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (once amended) [A]The method according to claim 3 wherein said surfactant is selected from one or more phospholipids and one or more lipopeptides.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (once amended) [A]The method according to [any of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 wherein said gas is a biocompatible gas or gas mixture selected from perfluorinated gases, preferably from sulphur hexafluoride, perfluoropropane, perfluorobutanes, perfluoropentanes and perfluorohexanes.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (once amended) [A]The method according to [any of claims 1 to 5]claim 1 wherein said gas is perfluorobutane and said surfactant is phosphatidylserine.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (once amended) [A]The method according to [any of claims 1 to 6]claim 1 wherein the microbubbles are removed before or after culturing, said removal is effected by bursting with a technique selected from ultrasonication, pH change or transient application of overpressure or underpressure.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (once amended) Use of microbubble-bound cells according to claim 8[or claim 9] for the investigation of diseases involving said receptors.